

Message Text

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72

ORIGIN NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 EA-11 IO-14 ISO-00 H-03 PM-07 NSC-07

SP-03 SS-20 RSC-01 AID-20 SWF-02 AGR-20 L-03 CIAE-00

DODE-00 HEW-08 INR-11 NSAE-00 PA-04 PRS-01 SCA-01

SCSE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 /178 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/P:GFSHERMAN

APPROVED BY NEA/P:GFSHERMAN

S/PRS - MR. KING (INFO)

AF/P - MRS. RUSSELL

IO/P - MR. BLACHLY

EUR/P - MR. SAVAGE

NEA/ARN - MR. KORN

H - MISS FOLGER (INFO)

----- 097558

O 162109Z AUG 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY DACCA IMMEDIATE

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY BERN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

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AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

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E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING

FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS
FROM DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN'S PRESS BRIEFING AUGUST 16, 1974:

QUOTE:

MR. ANDERSON: I HAVE ONE BRIEF ANNOUNCEMENT I WOULD LIKE
TO MAKE ABOUT THE FLOOD DISASTER IN BANGLADESH. I WAS
ASKED ABOUT THIS THE OTHER DAY. AND SINCE I LAST MENTIONED
IT OUR AMBASSADOR IN DACCA HAS BEEN IN CLOSE AND CONTINUOUS
CONTACT WITH THE BANGLADESH GOVERNMENT ON ADDITIONAL
RELIEF REQUIREMENTS, AND WE WISH TO ANNOUNCE NOW THERE IS
AN AMOUNT OF ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE FROM THE UNITED STATES
TO BANGLADESH.

WE'VE AUTHORIZED THE USE OF \$4 MILLION UNDER AN EXISTING
AID RELIEF AND REHABILITATION GRANT FOR THE PURCHASE WITHIN
BANGLADESH OF BUILDING MATERIALS TO ASSIST IN THE RESTORA-
TION OF FLOOD DAMAGED HOMES. AND THERE ARE A NUMBER OF
OTHER THINGS WE ARE DOING WHICH I WILL HAVE AVAILABLE
POSTED FOR YOU SO THAT YOU CAN GET THE FULL DETAILS OF IT.

Q. ARE THEY AVAILABLE RIGHT NOW?

A. YES, RIGHT AFTER THE BRIEFING.

THE FOLLOWING ADDITIONAL MATERIAL WAS MADE AVAILABLE AS
A PRESS HANDOUT.

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THE DOLS 4 MILLION CITED ABOVE WILL ALSO BE AVAILABLE
FOR PURCHASE OF LOCALLY AVAILABLE SEEDS TO PERMIT THE
FARMERS TO BEGIN REPLANTING THEIR CROPS AS SOON AS THE
FLOOD WATERS RECEDE, WHICH THEY ARE NOW BEGINNING TO DO.

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WE HAVE AUTHORIZED THE IMMEDIATE AIR LIFT OF 15,000
BLANKETS AND 600 FAMILY-SIZE TENTS FROM THE U.S.
DISASTER RELIEF WAREHOUSE ON GUAM.

WE HAVE AUTHORIZED EXPENDITURE FROM THE DISASTER RELIEF
CONTINGENCY FUND FOR THE PURCHASE AND SHIPMENT OF VEGETA-
BLE SEEDS NOT AVAILABLE IN BANGLADESH.

WE HAVE AUTHORIZED THE IMMEDIATE AIR LIFT FROM THE UNITED STATES OF SURVIVAL BISCUITS TO FEED PERSONS DISPLACED BY THE FLOODS. WE WILL HAVE ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AVAILABLE LATER ON THE EXACT QUANTITIES AND THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE THAT CAN BE FED BY THIS MEANS.

IN ADDITION TO THE ABOVE, WE EXPECT THAT SOMETIME NEXT WEEK NEARLY 59,000 LONG TONS OF WHEAT PURCHASED UNDER FY 1974 P.L. 480 FUNDS WILL ARRIVE IN BANGLADESH. WHILE THIS WHEAT WAS PURCHASED BEFORE THE FLOODING, IT SHOULD BE OF CONSIDERABLE ASSISTANCE TO THE FLOOD RELIEF EFFORTS OF THE BANGLADESH GOVERNMENT.

I MENTIONED THAT OUR AMBASSADOR IN DACCA HAS DONATED \$25,000 TO THE PRIME MINISTER'S FUND FOR IMMEDIATE EMERGENCY RELIEF. WE WILL OF COURSE KEEP THE SITUATION IN BANGLADESH UNDER CONSTANT REVIEW TO DETERMINE NEEDS FOR FURTHER HELP AND MEANS FOR PROVIDING IT. FOR THIS PURPOSE, A DISASTER RELIEF TEAM COMPRISED OF OFFICIALS OF AID AND THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE HAS BEEN ORGANIZED.

KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS CONFERENCES, FLOODS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 AUG 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974STATE180470
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: GFSHERMAN
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740226-0594
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740840/aaaabiar.tel
Line Count: 137
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN NEA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 08 JUL 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <08 JUL 2002 by reddocgw>; APPROVED <09 JUL 2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS
TAGS: PFOR, BG
To: DACCA MULTIPLE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005